

ENROLLMENT IN FORMAL EDUCATION

Key Findings: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States

All the G8 countries, except the Russian Federation, had close to universal participation in formal education for all of the ages in the range of 5 to 14.

In 2001, close to 100 percent of children ages 3 to 4 were enrolled in preprimary or primary programs in France⁴ and Italy (table 2). In contrast, lower percentages of children ages 3 to 4 were enrolled in a preprimary or primary program in Canada (21 percent), Germany (70 percent), Japan (77 percent), the Russian Federation (31 percent), the United Kingdom (81 percent), and the United States (47 percent). However, by age 4 in Japan and the United Kingdom, age 5 in the United States, and age 6 in Canada and Germany, at least 90 percent of the population was enrolled in formal education (figure 2). In the Russian Federation, not until the age of 7 did enrollment rates reach 90 percent for the population.

In 2001, the United States and six of the seven other G8 countries had close to universal school participation of children ages 5–14—the age range that generally corresponds with primary and lower secondary education (table 2). The Russian Federation was the only country in which the enrollment rate for this age group was below 90 percent.

⁴Enrollment rates for 3 to 4-year-olds exceed 100 percent. A large number of children below the age of 3 in France are enrolled in formal education and get included in the enrollment figures, due to different reference dates for enrollment and population data.

The United States had an enrollment rate of 78 percent in 2001 for youth ages 15 to 19—the age range that corresponds most closely with upper secondary education in the countries presented. The enrollment rate for the United States for this age group was higher than the corresponding rates for Canada, Italy, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom, but lower than the rates for France and Germany.

Compulsory education ends at age 18 in Germany, age 17 in the United States, age 16 in Canada, France, and the United Kingdom, and age 15 in Italy, Japan, and the Russian Federation (figure 2). Participation in formal education tends to be high until the end of compulsory education for all the countries, but in Germany and the United Kingdom, enrollment rates are below 90 percent at the age at which students are still legally required to be enrolled in school.

Enrollment rates of 20- to 29-year olds—the age range that corresponds most closely to the typical age of enrollment in higher education—were less than 25 percent among the seven countries reporting data (table 2). The United States had an enrollment rate of 23 percent for adults ages 20 to 29. This rate was lower than the rate in Germany (24 percent), about the same as the rate in the United Kingdom (23 percent), but higher than the rates in Canada (21 percent), France (20 percent), Italy (17 percent) and the Russian Federation (15 percent).

Definitions and Methodology

Formal education enrollment figures include children who attended center-based programs and exclude children in home-based early childhood education. The percentage of the population at given ages enrolled in education is called an “enrollment rate.” In this indicator, the term “enrollment rate” refers to “net enrollment rate,” and is defined as the number of students in a particular age group enrolled in education divided by the population of that same age group. Enrollments include all full-time and

part-time students in public and private institutions, ages 5 to 14, 15 to 19, and 20 to 29, in 2001. Enrollment rates may exceed 100 percent for some countries and some age categories due to different reference dates for school enrollment and population data. Reference year is 2001 for population and enrollment data in all countries; however, reference dates may differ within 2001. Ending age of compulsory education is the age at which students below that age are legally obliged to participate in education.

Table 2. Percentage of the population ages 3 to 29 enrolled in formal education, by age group and country: 2001

Country	Students participating in formal education as a percentage of the overall population of selected age			
	3- to 4-year-olds	5- to 14-year-olds	15- to 19-year-olds	20- to 29-year-olds
Canada	20.8	97.2	75.0	21.2
France ¹	119.3	101.0	86.6	19.6
Germany ¹	70.4	100.1	89.4	24.2
Italy	98.9	99.4	72.2	17.1
Japan ¹	76.8	101.0	—	—
Russian Federation	30.9	83.3	70.8	15.4
United Kingdom ²	81.0	98.7	74.7	23.3
United States ¹	47.4	102.1	77.6	22.6

—Not available.

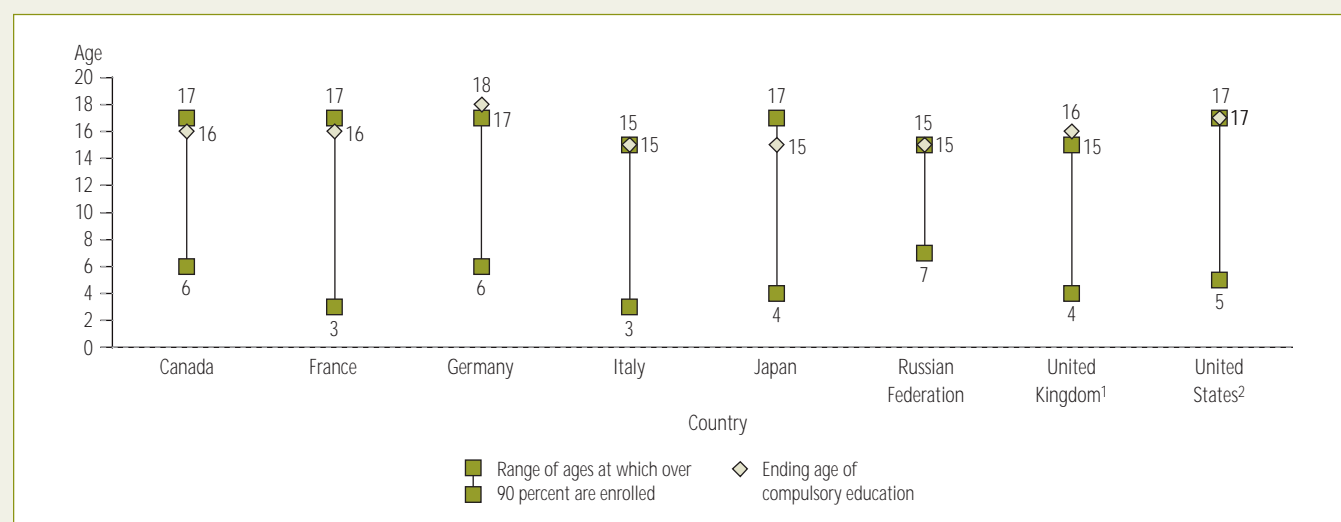
¹Enrollment rates for France, Germany, Japan, and the United States exceed 100 percent in one or more age ranges due to different reference dates for school enrollment and population data.

²The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

NOTE: Reference year is 2001 for population and enrollment data in all countries; however, reference dates may differ within 2001. Formal education enrollment figures for preprimary (most 3- to 4-year-olds enrolled) include only children who attended center-based programs and exclude children in home-based early childhood education.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). (2003). *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators 2003*, Table C1.2.

Figure 2. Range of ages at which over 90 percent of the population is enrolled in formal education, and ending age of compulsory education, by country: 2001



¹The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

²The ending age of compulsory education in the United States varies across states, ranging from 16 to 18. The national figure of age 17 is calculated as a weighted average (weighting is based on the population of states) of the ending age of compulsory education for all the states. The modal age for the end of compulsory education in the United States is 16. (Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, October 2001. Available: <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/school/cps2001/tab02.xls>)

NOTE: Reference year is 2001 for population and enrollment data in all countries; however, reference dates may differ within 2001. Ending age of compulsory education is the age at which compulsory schooling ends. For example, an ending age of 18 indicates that all students under 18 are legally obliged to participate in education. The "age range at which over 90 percent are enrolled" refers to the full range of ages at which enrollment reaches this level. Formal education enrollment figures for preprimary include only children who attended center-based programs and exclude children in home-based early childhood education.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). (2003). *Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators 2003*, Table C1.2.